



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,585	07/01/2003	Kent Oertle	13693US02	5233
23446	7590	05/20/2005	EXAMINER	
MCANDREWS HELD & MALLOY, LTD 500 WEST MADISON STREET SUITE 3400 CHICAGO, IL 60661			LE, DON P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/611,585

Applicant(s)

OERTLE ET AL.

Examiner

Don P. Le

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/22/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,9 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 9 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hung et al. (US 6,018,257).

3. With respect to claim 1, figure 9 of Hung discloses a circuit (212) coupled to an output device (104), the circuit comprising at least one transistor device comprising at least one p-channel device (506'), said at least one transistor device adapted to limit a duration of a high voltage across the output device thereby reducing hot carrier injection stress across-the output device (see abstract, prevent damage due to high voltage, high voltage causes hot carrier injection stress).

4. With respect to claim 2, figure 9 of Hung discloses two stacked transistor devices (102, 202) coupled to the output device.

5. With respect to claim 3, figure 9 of Hung discloses the at least one p-channel device (202) is coupled to the output device.

6. With respect to claim 4, figure 9 of Hung discloses the two stacked transistor devices comprise two stacked p-channel (102, 202) devices coupled to the output device.

7. With respect to claim 5, figure 9 of Hung discloses the output device comprises at least one n-channel output transistor (104).

Art Unit: 2819

8. With respect to claim 6, figure 9 of Hung discloses the output device comprises two stacked n-channel output transistors (104, 204).

9. With respect to claim 9, figure 9 of Hung teaches an integrated circuit comprising:
an IO PAD (coupled to OUTPUT);

an output circuit coupled to at least said IO PAD (figure 9); and

a stress circuit comprising at least one p-channel transistor (506'), said stress circuit coupled to at least said output circuit and said IO PAD and adapted to limit a duration of a high voltage across said output circuit when said output circuit is enabled, thereby reducing stress on said output circuit.

10. With respect to claim 12, figure 9 of Hung discloses the at least one p-channel transistor comprises two stacked p-channel transistor (502', 506').

11. With respect to claim 13, figure 9 of Hung discloses said output circuit comprises at least one output transistor (104).

12. With respect to claim 14, figure 9 of Hung discloses the at least one output transistor comprises an n-channel transistor (104).

13. With respect to claim 15, figure 9 of Hung discloses the at least one output transistor comprises two stacked n-channel transistors (104, 204).

14. With respect to claim 16, the method therein is inherent in the apparatus of Hung as shown in the above rejections.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9 and 12-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

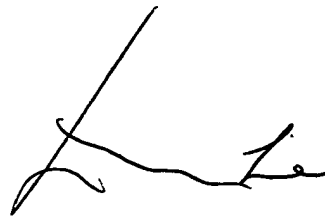
Art Unit: 2819

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don P. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1806. The examiner can normally be reached on 7AM - 5PM:

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Tokar can be reached on 571-272-1812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

5/18/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don P. Le', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DON LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER